



HOUSE BILL 779: ABC Elections.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 13, 2018
Introduced by:	Reps. Brody, Williams	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin
Analysis of:	Fifth Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 779 would authorize certain small municipalities with decreasing populations to hold a malt beverage and unfortified wine election at the discretion of the municipal governing board.*

CURRENT LAW: A city may hold a malt beverage or unfortified wine election only if the county in which the city is located has already held an election in which the vote was against the sale of that kind of alcoholic beverage, and:

1. The city has a population of 500 or more; or
2. The city operates an ABC store.

Generally, an alcoholic beverage election is conducted in the same manner and under the same rules as a referendum under Subchapter III of Chapter 163A of the General Statutes.

If eligible to hold the election, the election is called either upon the written request for an election from the city governing body or by a petition requesting the election signed by at least 35% of the registered voters in the city.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 779 would provide an additional circumstance under which a city could hold a malt beverage or unfortified wine election. A city may hold such an election if it has a population between 400 and 500 according to the most recent decennial census and had a population of 500 or more according to the prior decennial census. The condition that the city must be located in a county that has already held an unsuccessful county-wide election would still apply.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

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